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Front Matter

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PREFACE

The history of the School of Medicine of Howard University naturally falls into three parts—the five years prior to 1873; the seven years from 1873 to 1880, and the half century from that date to the present time. The first period was one of dauntless faith cut short by the panic of '73. The next period which is aptly defined as "the seven lean years," was made lean by the withdrawal of government funds, and was ended by the Federal Government beginning its appropriations again in 1879. The third period was one of slow but healthy growth. A fourth period began with the coming of Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson to the presidency of the University in 1926. There is ample evidence that this period will be one of intensive, internal improvement.